



MINUTES OF THE NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

A. Call to order

A regular meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 PM, in Room 208, City Hall, and Second Floor - 229 Main Street.

B. Roll call

Chairman Sherry Dutzy, presided;

Members of the Commission Present: Brandon Pierotti
Richard Gillespie
Bill Parker
Dan Sloan, alt.

Members of the Commission absent: Donald Cederquist

Also in Attendance: Scott McPhie, Planning Department

Chairman Dutzy added Dan Sloan would be a voting member tonight in place of the absent Donald Cederquist.

C. Approval of Minutes

- March 7, 2017 – meeting minutes

Chairman Dutzy said on Page 2, fifth paragraph down, it says that student interest should be directed to the principals and not directly to the Conservation Commission. This doesn't sound right.

Commissioner Sloan said Mr. Gallagher said principal, not principals.

Commissioner Gillespie said Mr. Gallagher was talking about the students' response to the request. Their interest should be replied to the principals of the schools, and not the Commission.

Chairman Dutzy said the letter they sent asked students to direct their letters of interest to the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Sloan asked if there was anyone in the school who would give permission to the student.

Chairman Dutzy said her understanding is that the school will put forth the students' names once they talk to the students.

Mr. McPhie said he can check the audio recording of the meeting.

Commissioner Sloan said he misunderstood the conversation. He thought the Commission was going to get letters from the principal.

Chairman Dutzy said the sentence should be edited so that it reads "student interest should be directed to the Mayor" and not "to the Conservation Commission."

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GILLESPIE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SLOAN, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2017, AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

D. New Business

- Brian T. Nereson, P.E., Geo- Insight representing the Paul Patti property located at 3 Monica Drive Sheet B Lot 804. The proposal is the expansion of an existing deck footprint into the Salmon Brook Prime Wetland Buffer. This is a new proposal to meet State Shoreland standards. Audra L. Clumb, NH certified Wetland Scientist #222 has delineated the wetlands. A large copy of that stamped plan will be presented tonight.

Mr. Patti introduced himself. He said the only reason they are initiating any changes right now is because of the impending failure of a retaining wall that is pointed toward Salmon Brook. They are looking to replace the retaining wall and the screen porch over which it sits. In doing so, they also want to add an egress to the back deck, which is also rotting. The porch and deck will be connected by a walkway, which would provide emergency egress. They originally wanted to extend the deck by 12 feet, but DES denied their application. The deck will only increase by about one foot; from 11 to 12 feet. This project will result in approximately slightly more than 100 square feet of impervious footprint alongside the house. Their application was approved by NHDES on March 15th.

Commissioner Gillespie asked for clarification of where the 101 square feet comes from.

Mr. Patti referred to a diagram.

Mr. McPhie said the 75-foot buffer goes through Mr. Patti's entire house.

Mr. Patti said yes, from the main door through the back corner. He said his house was constructed in 1966.

Chairman Dutzy asked if they will need to dig up the existing footings and re-cement them.

Mr. Patti said no. The builder is planning on leaving the existing footings in place and drilling new footings using the Auger method, so as not to disturb the soil as much as possible.

Commissioner Gillespie said the augers stay in the ground after they drill; they serve as a pier when they're done.

Mr. Parker asked if this was the property that came up several months ago, where a video was sent to the Commission showing an excavator using this method.

Chairman Dutzy said it wasn't for this project; it was for Kathy Drive.

Mr. Parker said the machine has to do all of its operating up on the level surface; it can't go down the slope.

Commission Sloan said once the old deck is gone, there will probably be plenty of room there to position the machine. He asked if they are going to build the deck first or the retaining wall.

Mr. Patti said the builder is going to remove the deck and do the earthwork in operational order.

Mr. McPhie asked if all erosion controls are being taken.

Mr. Patti said straw bales and compost wattles will be utilized.

Mr. Parker asked if Mr. Patti has selected a contractor.

Mr. Patti said yes, Rick Duprey out of Lunenburg, Massachusetts, authorized by Deck House. Deck House was the original builder of the house in 1966. They want to maintain the integrity of the house and the property. They purchased the lot next to them to ensure no one will build on it.

Commissioner Gillespie asked if DES needs to see the plan again.

Mr. Patti said DES approved this plan on March 15th. He provided a copy of the approval.

Chairman Dutzy asked what a mahogany cover board is. Is it laminate?

Mr. Patti said yes, he believes it is a laminate board. The boards will be used for the structure; the flooring will be Brazilian walnut, which is less expensive but more sturdy than cedar.

Chairman Dutzy asked what material the retaining wall will be; will it be wood, concrete?

Mr. Patti said it is going to be engineered by GeoInsight, Inc. in Manchester, NH. They haven't yet worked on the design because they wanted to make sure he received approval for the project first. He is expecting concrete.

Mr. Parker said this property is a Conservation Commissioner's dream. This is an applicant that has clearly gone through extensive investment in this project. He said he doesn't have any further questions.

Chairman Dutzy said a couple years ago, she and Commissioner Gillespie walked the property that Mr. Patti bought, when 7 Monica Drive was applying to the Commission for approval. At that time, there was a lot of debris down the hill that needed to be cleaned up. Is that in pretty good shape now?

Mr. Patti said there is no debris back there; the area is in its natural state.

Chairman Dutzy said normally the next step would be to schedule a site visit. She asked if Commissioners felt comfortable voting due to the detailed information they received, or would they like to schedule a site walk.

Commissioners agreed to vote on the application.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SLOAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARKER, TO MAKE A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROJECT AT 3 MONICA DRIVE, TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DECK AND INCREASE THE IMPERVIOUS SURFACE BY 101

SQUARE FEET, WITH THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS: BMP FOR EROSION CONTROL ARE FOLLOWED AS INDICATED IN SECTION 2, 3, 6 AND 7 OF THE APPLICATION; AND, CONSERVATION BOUNDARY MARKERS ARE PLACED AT THE EXTENT OF THE BUFFER, AT THE EDGE OF THE PROPERTY.
MOTION CARRIED

- Southwest Park/Ridge Road site walk update

Chairman Dutzy said they will need to set another date for the site walk due to the snow.

A site walk was scheduled for Tuesday, April 11th at 5pm.

- Downtown Riverwalk ideas and discussion

Mr. McPhie said Director Marchant has asked for feedback on some of the ideas of the Riverwalk Committee. He asked the Commissioners to look at the information he provided this evening and email him their comments within the next few days.

- Ideas for the Conservation Commission

Chairman Dutzy said she wanted feedback from Commissioners regarding their thoughts on how the Commission operates and their roles as Commission members.

Commissioner Sloan said he didn't think they were going to just be advising the Planning Board; he thought they would be more proactive in obtaining conservation land and doing more with the land they have. He would like the Commission to identify a property that is protected and see what can be done to improve it.

Commissioner Parker said he really enjoys the site visits they've been on. Maybe it would be beneficial to schedule more site visits on the existing conservation properties.

Chairman Dutzy said she is interested in identifying areas where they have non-native, invasive problems and begin to think about a process to manage them. She also thinks they need to look into boundary signage for some of the properties.

Mr. McPhie said he will provide a listing of the properties.

E. Old Business

- Sherry Dutzy, Follow up discussion of the letter to high school principals to attract potential student conservation members.

Chairman Dutzy said letters went out to the principals but she has not received any feedback at this time.

F. Other Business and Updates

None

G. NCC Correspondence and Communications

- Various communications received over the past month

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GILLESPIE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PARKER, TO
ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
MOTION CARRIED**

H. Items

- Purchase of land at Sullivan Farms

Mr. McPhie forwarded the letter of support for the grant. Progress is being made in that direction, but he has no other updates.

Chairman Dutzy said she had a meeting today with Director Marchant, Mr. McPhie and Pedro Altagracia of the Mayor's Office. Sullivan Farms came up in discussion. Dir. Marchant is going to provide information regarding the grant they are working on. Chairman Dutzy said she was going to provide a letter to Congressman Kuster, to notify her that the Commission is looking for funding to purchase the property. She will need the Commission's approval to do this.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER PIEROTTI, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SLOAN, TO
ALLOW CHAIRMAN DUTZY TO SEND A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN KUSTER'S OFFICE
REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF LAND AT SULLIVAN FARM
MOTION CARRIED**

I. Project Updates by Commissioners

- Amherst Street - NTB

Commissioner Pierotti said he visited the site that was approved for the NTB building. It appears they are progressing on that project. It looked like they had erosion controls up.

- 3 Monica Drive

Commissioner Sloan will monitor the project at 3 Monica Dr.

J. Nonpublic Session

None

K. Adjournment

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY COMMISSIONER SLOAN, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER
GILLESPIE
MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVED:

Richard Gillespie, Clerk, Nashua Conservation Commission

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REGULAR OFFICE HOURS OR CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

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Prepared by: Mindy Lloyd

Taped Meeting